AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A peptide that ameliorates one or more symptoms of an inflammatory condition, wherein said peptide is a peptide of the formula:

$$X^1\text{-}X^2\text{-}X^3\text{-}X^4$$

wherein:

X^1 and X^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of alanine (Ala), valine (Val), leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), proline (Pro), phenylalanine (Phe), tryptophan (Trp), methionine (Met), serine (Ser) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, beta-naphthyl alanine, alpha-naphthyl alanine, norleucine, cyclohexylalanine, threonine (Thr) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, tyrosine (Tyr) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, lysine (Lys) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, arginine (Arg) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, ornithine (Orn) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, aspartic acid (Asp) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, cysteine (Cys) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group, and glutamic acid (Glu) bearing a hydrophobic protecting group; and

X^2 and X^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of Asp, Arg, and Glu, wherein when X^2 is an acidic amino acid; X^3 is a basic amino acid, and when X^2 is a basic amino acid X^3 is an acidic amino acid;

said peptide converts pro-inflammatory HDL to anti-inflammatory HDL or makes anti-inflammatory HDL more anti-inflammatory; and

said peptide does not consist of the amino acid sequence Lys-Arg-Asp-Ser (SEQ ID NO:238) in which Lys-Arg-Asp and Ser are all L amino acids.

Claims 2-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 1, wherein:

$X^1\text{-}X^2\text{-}X^3\text{-}X^4$ consists of the amino acid sequence Phe-Arg-Glu-Leu (SEQ ID NO:250).

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises at least one "D" amino acid.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 28, wherein said peptide consists of all "D" amino acids.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 27, wherein said peptide comprises at least one "D" amino acid.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The peptide of any one of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, or 41, wherein X^1 bears a hydrophobic protecting group.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The peptide of claim 31, wherein said hydrophobic protecting group is selected from the group consisting of t-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), Fmoc, nicotinyl, O*t*Bu, a benzoyl group, an acetyl (Ac), a carbobenzoxy, ~~methyl, ethyl, a propyl, a butyl, a pentyl~~, a methyl ester, a propyl ester, a butyl ester, a pentyl ester, a hexyl ester, an N-methyl anthranilyl, a 3 to 20 carbon alkyl, amide, 9-fluoreneacetyl group, 1-fluorenecarboxylic group, 9-fluorenecarboxylic group, 9-fluorenone-1-carboxylic group, , Xanthyl (Xan), Trityl (Trt), 4-methyltrityl (Mtt), 4-methoxytrityl (Mmt), 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethyl-benzenesulphonyl (Mtr), Mesitylene-2-sulphonyl (Mts), 4,4-dimethoxybenzhydryl (Mbh), Tosyl (Tos), 2,2,5,7,8-pentamethyl chroman-6-sulphonyl (Pmc), 4-methylbenzyl (MeBzl), 4-methoxybenzyl (MeOBzl), Benzyloxy (BzlO), Benzyl (Bzl), 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulphenyl (Npys), 1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)ethyl (Dde), 2,6-dichlorobenzyl (2,6-DiCl-Bzl), 2-chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Cl-Z), 2-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Br-Z), benzyloxymethyl (Bom), cyclohexyloxy (cHxO),t-butoxymethyl (Bum), t-Butyl (tBu), trifluoroacetyl (TFA), 4[N-{1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)-3-methyldibutyl}-amino] benzyl ester (ODmab), α-allyl ester (OAll), 2-phenylisopropyl ester (2-PhiPr), and 1-[4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxycyclohex-1-yl-idene]ethyl (Dde).

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 31, wherein said hydrophobic protecting group is selected from the group consisting of Boc, Fmoc, nicotinyl, and O*t*Bu.

Claim 34 (Original): The peptide of claim 31, wherein X^4 bears a hydrophobic protecting group.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The peptide of claim 34, wherein said hydrophobic protecting group is selected from the group consisting of t-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), Fmoc, nicotinyl, O*t*Bu, a

benzoyl group, an acetyl (Ac), a carbobenzoxy, ~~methyl, ethyl, a propyl, a butyl, a pentyl~~, a methyl ester, a propyl ester, a butyl ester, a pentyl ester, a hexyl ester, an N-methyl anthranilyl, a 3 to 20 carbon alkyl, amide, 9-fluoreneacetyl group, 1-fluorenecarboxylic group, 9-fluorenecarboxylic group, 9-fluorenone-1-carboxylic group, Xanthyl (Xan), Trityl (Trt), 4-methyltrityl (Mtt), 4-methoxytrityl (Mmt), 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethyl-benzenesulphonyl (Mtr), Mesitylene-2-sulphonyl (Mts), 4,4-dimethoxybenzhydryl (Mbh), Tosyl (Tos), 2,2,5,7,8-pentamethyl chroman-6-sulphonyl (Pmc), 4-methylbenzyl (MeBzl), 4-methoxybenzyl (MeOBzl), Benzyloxy (BzlO), Benzyl (Bzl), 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulphenyl (Npys), 1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)ethyl (Dde), 2,6-dichlorobenzyl (2,6-DiCl-Bzl), 2-chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Cl-Z), 2-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Br-Z), benzyloxymethyl (Bom), cyclohexyloxy (cHxO),t-butoxymethyl (Bum), t-Butyl (tBu), trifluoroacetyl (TFA), 4[N-{1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)-3-methyldibutyl}-amino] benzyl ester (ODmab), α-allyl ester (OAll), 2-phenylisopropyl ester (2-PhiPr), and 1-[4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxycyclohex-1-yl-idene] ethyl (Dde).

Claim 36 (Original): The peptide of claim 31, wherein the N-terminus of said peptide is blocked with a protecting group selected from the group consisting of Boc-, Fmoc-, and Nicotinyl-.

Claim 37 (Original): The peptide of claim 31, wherein the C-terminus of said peptide is blocked with a protecting group selected from the group consisting of *t*Bu, and O*t*Bu.

Claims 38-40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 30, wherein said peptide consists of all "D" amino acids.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises alternating D- and L- amino acids.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises all L-amino acids.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The peptide of claims 1 or 27, wherein said peptide is mixed with a pharmacologically acceptable excipient.

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 44, wherein said peptide is mixed with a pharmacologically acceptable excipient suitable for oral administration to a mammal.

Claim 46 (Previously presented): The peptide of claim 44, wherein said peptide is provided as a unit formulation in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The peptide of claims 1 or 27, wherein said peptide is provided as a time release formulation.

Claim 48 (Previously presented): The peptide of claims 1 or 27, wherein said peptide protects a phospholipid against oxidation by an oxidizing agent

Claim 49 (Original): The peptide of claim 27, wherein said peptide is coupled to a biotin.

Claims 50-122 (Canceled)

Claim 123 (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

one or more peptides according to claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient;

wherein the peptide is present in a dose effective to ameliorate one or more symptoms of an inflammatory condition.

Claim 124 (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 123, wherein said peptide consists of all "D" amino acids.

Claim 125 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 123, wherein the peptide is in a time release formulation.

Claim 126 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 123, wherein the formulation is formulated as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 127 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 123, wherein the formulation is formulated for oral administration.

Claim 128 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 123, wherein the formulation is formulated for administration by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, inhalation administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 129 (Previously presented): A kit comprising:

a container containing one or more of the peptides according to claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41; and

instructional materials teaching the use of the peptide(s) in the treatment of a pathology characterized by inflammation.

Claim 130 (Previously presented): The kit of claim 129, wherein said pathology is a pathology selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, polyarteritis nodosa, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, and a viral illness.

Claim 131 (Previously presented): A method of mitigating one or more symptoms of atherosclerosis in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of one or more of the peptides of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41.

Claim 132 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said peptide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 133 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said peptide is administered in conjunction with a lipid.

Claim 134 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said peptide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient suitable for oral administration.

Claim 135 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said peptide is administered as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 136 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said administering comprises administering said peptide by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 137 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as having one or more symptoms of atherosclerosis.

Claim 138 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as at risk for stroke or atherosclerosis.

Claim 139 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 140 (Original): The method of claim 131, wherein said mammal is non-human mammal.

Claim 141 (Currently amended): A method of mitigating one or more symptoms of an inflammatory pathology in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of one or more of the peptides ~~the peptide~~ of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41.

Claim 142 (Previously presented): The method of claim 141, wherein said inflammatory pathology is a pathology selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, polyarteritis nodosa, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and a viral illness.

Claim 143 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said peptide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 144 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said peptide is administered in conjunction with a lipid.

Claim 145 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said peptide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient suitable for oral administration.

Claim 146 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said peptide is administered as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 147 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said administering comprises administering said peptide by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 148 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as at risk for stroke.

Claim 149 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 150 (Original): The method of claim 141, wherein said mammal is non-human mammal.

Claim 151 (Previously presented): A method of enhancing the activity of a statin in a mammal, said method comprising coadministering with said statin an effective amount of one or more of the peptides of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41.

Claim 152 (Previously presented): The method of claim 151, wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of cerivastatin, atorvastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, rosuvastatin, and pitavastatin.

Claim 153 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said peptide is administered simultaneously with said statin.

Claim 154 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said peptide is administered before said statin.

Claim 155 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said peptide is administered after said statin.

Claim 156 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said peptide and/or said statin are administered as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 157 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said administering comprises administering said peptide and/or said statin by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 158 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as having one or more symptoms of atherosclerosis.

Claim 159 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as at risk for stroke or atherosclerosis.

Claim 160 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 161 (Original): The method of claim 151, wherein said mammal is non-human mammal.

Claim 162 (Previously presented): A method of mitigating one or more symptoms associated with atherosclerosis in a mammal, said method comprising:

administering to said mammal an effective amount of a statin; and

an effective amount of one or more peptides of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41;

wherein the effective amount of the statin is lower than the effective amount of a statin administered without said peptide.

Claim 163 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein the effective amount of the peptide is lower than the effective amount of the peptide administered without said statin.

Claim 164 (Previously presented): The method of claim 162, wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of cerivastatin, atorvastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, rosuvastatin, and pitavastatin.

Claim 165 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said peptide is administered simultaneously with said statin.

Claim 166 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said peptide is administered before said statin.

Claim 167 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said peptide is administered after said statin.

Claim 168 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said peptide and/or said statin are administered as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 169 (Currently amended): The method of claim 162, wherein said administering comprises orally administering said ~~composition~~ one or more peptides.

Claim 170 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said administering is by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, inhalation administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 171 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as having one or more symptoms of atherosclerosis.

Claim 172 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said mammal is a mammal diagnosed as at risk for stroke or atherosclerosis.

Claim 173 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 174 (Original): The method of claim 162, wherein said mammal is non-human mammal.

Claim 175 (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical formulation, the formulation comprising:

a statin and/or Ezetimibe; and

a peptide or a concatamer of a peptide according to any of claims 1, 27, 28, 29, and 41.

Claim 176 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the peptide and/or the statin are present in an effective dose.

Claim 177 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 176, wherein the effective amount of the statin is lower than the effective amount of the statin administered without the peptide.

Claim 178 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 176, wherein the effective amount of the peptide is lower than the effective amount of the peptide administered without the statin.

Claim 179 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 176, wherein the effective amount of the Ezetimibe is lower than the effective amount of the Ezetimibe administered without the peptide.

Claim 180 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 176, wherein the effective amount of the peptide is lower than the effective amount of the peptide administered without the Ezetimibe.

Claim 181 (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the statin is selected from the group consisting of cerivastatin, atorvastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, rosuvastatin, and pitavastatin.

Claim 182 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the Ezetimibe, the statin, and/or the peptide are in a time release formulation.

Claim 183 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the formulation is formulated as a unit dosage formulation.

Claim 184 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the formulation is formulated for oral administration.

Claim 185 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the formulation is formulated for administration by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, rectal administration, intraperitoneal injection, intravascular injection, subcutaneous injection, transcutaneous administration, inhalation administration, and intramuscular injection.

Claim 186 (Original): The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 175, wherein the formulation further comprises one or more phospholipids.

Claims 187-191 (Canceled).